

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 5 through 7, 10, 11, 15 through 17, 20, 33, 35, 37, and 38 are pending, with Claims 1, 10, 11, 20, 33, and 35 being independent. Claims 2 through 4, 8, 9, 12 through 14, 18, 19, 21 through 32, 34, and 36 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 5 through 7, 10, 11, 15 through 17, 20, 33, and 35 have been amended. In this regard, it will be appreciated that (a) Claim 1 has been amended to, among other changes, include the features of cancelled Claims 3 and 4, and (b) Claim 10 has been amended to, among other changes, be rewritten in independent form. Claims 37 and 38 have been added.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a telephonic conversation with Applicants' representative. During the conversation, Applicants' representative inquired as to why on the Form PTO-1449 for the May 9, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement, two articles were lined through. Applicants' representative pointed out that the articles are discussed in the specification, and the Examiner agreed to consider the articles and make them of record. Applicants also note that one of the two articles, by Hirose, et al., was submitted along with an English language abstract. Applicants have attached hereto another copy of the Form PTO-1449, and respectfully request that the articles be made of record. Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

The drawings were objected to for misspellings. In response, transmitted herewith are four replacement sheets of formal drawings comprising Figs. 13, 14, 17, and 19 to be substituted for the corresponding drawing sheets presently on file. The new formal drawings

attends to the following formal matters, as required in the Official Action:

- (a) Fig. 13, box S124, change “DECORDING” to --DECODING--;
- (b) Fig. 14, boxes 311 and 312, change “DECORDING” to --DECODING--;
- (c) Fig. 17, box S206, change “DECORDING” to --DECODING-- and box S207, change “DECORDED” to --DECODED--; and
- (d) Fig. 19, boxes 1812 and 1822, change “DECORDING” to --DECODING--

Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1 through 20, 33, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and is submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the claims in a manner earnestly believed to avoid each ground of rejection. In particular, independent Claims 1, 11, 33, and 35 have been amended to recite that --each-- panoramic image corresponds to a plurality of viewpoints.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 13, 14, 19, 21 through 23, 27 through 29, and 33 through 36 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,337,882 (Boyer, et al.). Claims 2, 12, 24, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Boyer, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,973,726 (Iijima, et al.). Claims 5, 10, 15, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Boyer, et al. and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,455 (Toyofuku, et al.). Claims 6 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Boyer, et al. and Toyofuku, et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0021353 A1 (DeNies). Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 26, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Boyer, et al. in view of European Patent Publication No. EP 0 921 376 A1 (Endo, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 11, 37, and 38 variously recite, inter alia, that an angular field of view of the partial image doubles the angular field of the display (where each of the plurality of partial images shares an overlapping portion with adjacent partial images, and where the whole of the partial image is overlapped by adjacent partial images).

Claims 10 and 20 variously recite, inter alia, storing each partial image as a 90° rotated image.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that none of Boyer, et al., Iijima, et al., Toyofuku, et al., DeNies, and Endo, et al., even in the proposed combinations, assuming, arguendo, that such could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed combinations of claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1, 10, 11, 20, 33, and 35. The Official Action states in paragraphs 7 and 9 that such features would be obvious design choice; however, Applicants respectfully traverse said statements as being without support. It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the above-discussed claimed features. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that by virtue of the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1, 11, 33, and 35, it may not be necessary to combine images extracted from partial images, and therefore the processing time can be shortened and deterioration of image at the joint portion of partial images can be prevented, whereby a high quality image at a desired view position and view direction can be quickly obtained (see, e.g., p. 25, line 24 through p. 26, line 8 of the specification, and Fig. 15B). And Applicants respectfully submit that by virtue of the above-discussed claimed features recited in Claims 10 and 20, address control at reading image data can be simplified, and the processing

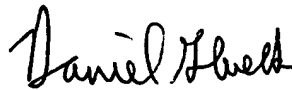
can be performed at high speed (see, e.g., p. 31, lines 16 through 26).

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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